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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Morocco

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED] 6

SUBJECT Views of Moulay Larbi Alaouite

on French and Russian concessions hereby regarded to
in Morocco CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
25X1A6a letter of 16 October 1973 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. According to source, the French plan to offer to substitute the present protectorate status of Morocco for an alliance between "two sovereign states". This apparent concession would, in fact, Larbi stated, give France more power than before in Morocco, inasmuch as the agreement would be bilateral instead of multi-lateral. Larbi added that France intends to confront the Algenciras Powers with a fait accompli, and suggested that any action taken by other foreign powers must be effected as quickly as possible. "You can be certain," he said, "that unless one of the powers does something about it, France will have in effect taken everything of value in Morocco in what will appear to be a legal manner."
2. In view of the above, Larbi stated, the Sultan of Morocco would welcome aid from the United States in decreasing the influence of the French in Morocco and that in return for such aid the Sultan would be willing to share equally in mining and mineral concessions which he would grant "exclusively" to American-sponsored enterprises. He stated that in Bou-Azzer, for example, there was a great deal of cobalt and manganese which was still unexploited and which could be mined exclusively by American organizations. In addition, he said, there are large deposits of lead and other minerals in the region of Agaoz which have not been exploited and will not be unless the Sultan is certain that the French will not gain control of these deposits.
3. Larbi stressed the need for the construction of improved highways in the mining country of the Atlas and of a westward extension of the railroad at Agadir.
4. According to Larbi, the Banque de Paris et Pay-Bas (through the Banque d'Etat du Maroc), the Compagnie des Transports du Maroc and the Societe de Prospection Miniere have already obtained huge concessions in the mining region, but their claims were based on grants of doubtful legality. If the United States

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5. Larbi stated that he had been approached by a member of a Russian commercial mission which recently came to Morocco to discuss obtaining concessions for lead mining. Reportedly the Russians offered to furnish all equipment, tools, transport and technicians as well as sea transportation from the port of Agadir beginning in the spring of 1947. They specified that they would also need a long-term concession with the right of air-passage to and from designated landing sites near the point of operations. He said it was not probable that the present French authorities would grant such concessions, but added that "perhaps the next ones would".
6. Source concluded by stating that it was obvious that the Moroccans did not now possess the means or the ability to exploit the mineral riches of the country, but that it was equally obvious that someone would furnish the means to do so in the near future. It would be more beneficial to the Moroccans from a financial, religious and economic point of view, he said, if the eventual exploiting-power were the United States. Furthermore, he added that the presence of the United States would serve as a stimulant to Mohamedan resistance to Communist doctrines. According to Larbi, the Sultan is apprehensive of possible Communist influence on the Moroccan lower classes as well as on colonial policy.
7. The Sultan plans to visit Tangier in the near future. Larbi stated that the French, believing that it might be to their disadvantage to prevent the trip, have adopted the idea of the idea as their own, and are making every effort to forward the project. Source stated that the Sultan plans to call on Mohamed Makki al-Masiri, leader of the Wahda Nationalist Party, during his visit to Tangier.

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